



*Investiture Service*  
*for*

**DR. VALMADGE T. TOWNER**

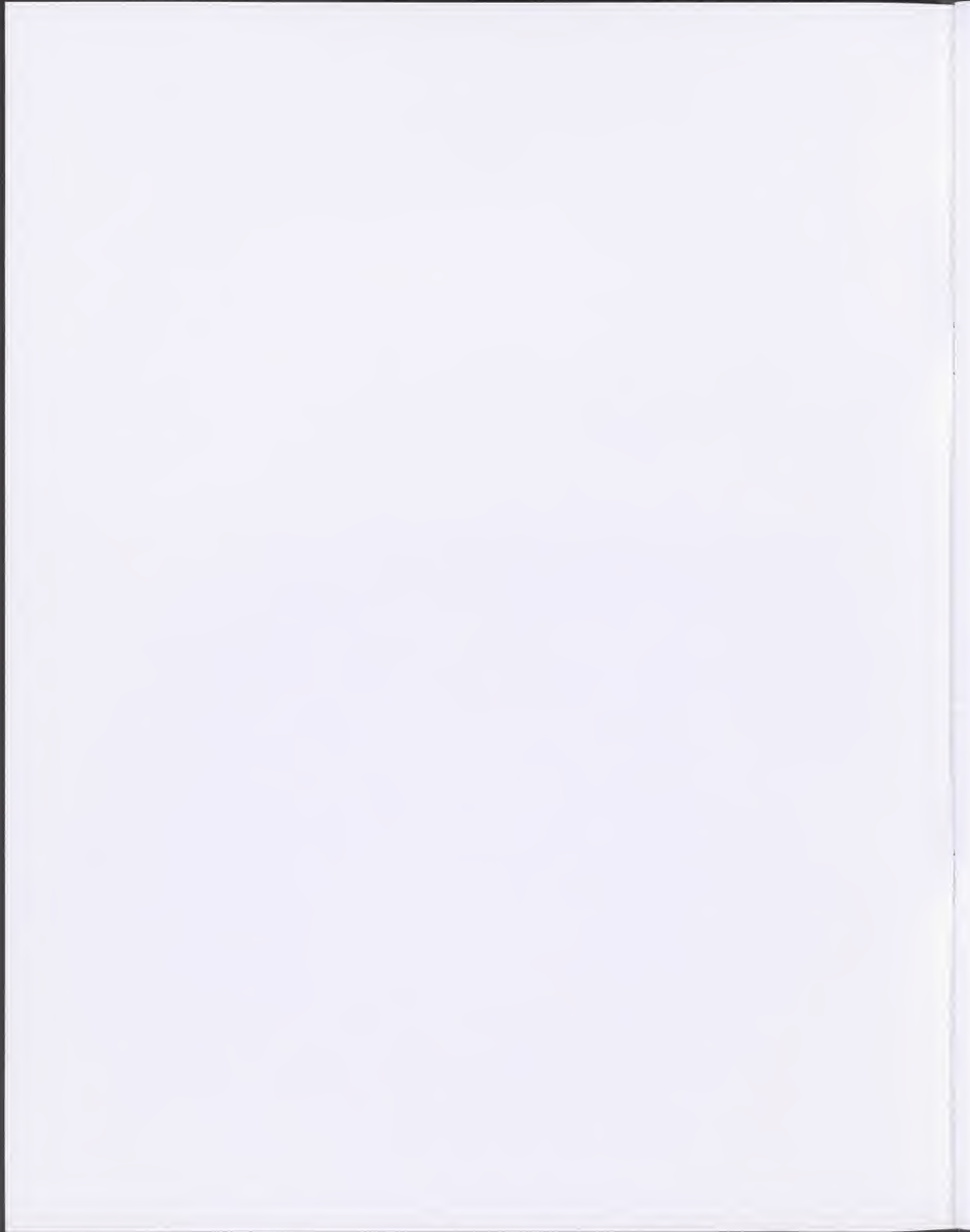
5TH PRESIDENT OF COAHOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



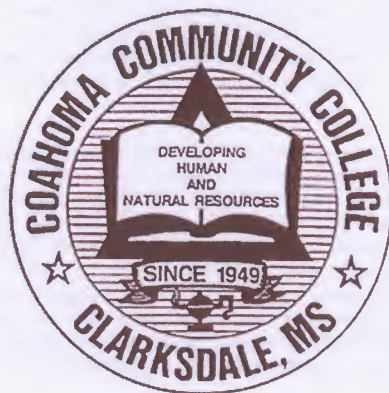
THURSDAY AFTERNOON, THE TENTH OF OCTOBER  
TWO THOUSAND AND THIRTEEN  
AT TWO O'CLOCK

THE PINNACLE  
COAHOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
3240 FRIARS POINT ROAD  
CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI





VALMADGE T. TOWNER, PH.D.



FIFTH PRESIDENT  
COAHOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OCTOBER 10, 2013

# History

Coahoma County Agricultural High School was established in 1924, becoming the first agricultural high school in Mississippi for Negroes under the existing "separate but equal" doctrine. The junior college curriculum was added in 1949, and the name of the institution was changed to Coahoma Junior College and Agricultural High School. During the first year (1949-1950), the junior college program was conducted by one full-time college director/teacher and a sufficient number of part-time teachers from the high school division. A full-time dean and college faculty members were employed in the third year of operation. During the first year of operation (1949), Coahoma Junior College was supported entirely by county funds. In 1950 Coahoma Junior College became the first educational institution for Negroes to be included in Mississippi's system of public junior colleges and to be eligible to share in funds appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature for the support of public junior colleges. Other counties also began to support the junior college, including Bolivar, Quitman and Sunflower.

In 1965 Coahoma Junior College opened its doors to all students regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, or disability. During its history, Coahoma Community College and Agricultural High School has been headed by eight superintendents and four presidents: M.L. Strange, 1924-25; J.M. Mosley, 1925-29; J.W. Addison, 1929-37; J.B. Wright, 1937-45; B.F. McLaurin, 1945-66; J.E. Miller, 1966-79; McKinley C. Martin, 1980-92; and the incumbent Vivian M. Presley, 1992-2013. With her appointment as superintendent/president on January 6, 1992, Dr. Vivian Presley became the first female to head Coahoma Community College and Agricultural High School and the first woman to head a community/junior college in the state of Mississippi. With the approval of the Board of Trustees of Coahoma Junior College and the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, Coahoma Junior College's name was changed to Coahoma Community College, effective July 1, 1989.

In the spring of 1995, after many years of not having an official district, a bill was introduced to and passed by the Mississippi Legislature and signed by Governor Kirk Fordice, giving Coahoma Community College a district. Effective July 1, 1995, the Coahoma Community College district became Bolivar, Coahoma, Quitman, Tallahatchie, and Tunica Counties.

On July 1, 2013, Dr. Valmadge T. Towner was named Coahoma Community College's fifth president to join an esteemed group of college leaders.

## *Mission*

Coahoma Community College, located in the northwest corner of the rural Mississippi Delta, is an accredited, public, comprehensive, two-year institution of higher learning dedicated to serving Bolivar, Coahoma, Quitman, Tallahatchie, and Tunica counties and beyond. Serving as a catalyst for economic and community development, Coahoma Community College provides accessible, affordable, diverse, and quality educational opportunities and services that foster a nurturing teaching and learning environment, promotes intellectual and work readiness skills, supports personal and professional growth, and prepares students to enter the job market or transfer to a college or university.

*Coahoma Community College and  
Coahoma Agricultural High School  
Board of Trustees*

Mr. William Donald Clark, President  
Rev. Dr. Dennis Hawkins, Vice President  
Mrs. Pauline Rhodes, Secretary  
Ms. Rena Butler, Asst. Secretary  
Attorney William Bradley, Legal Advisor  
Mr. Willie Blocker  
Mr. Bernard Stephen Chandler  
Dr. Darron Edwards  
Mr. Ned Gathwright  
Rev. Andrew Hawkins  
Mrs. Brenda J. Hopson  
Mr. Robert G. Mason  
Mr. Johnny McGlown  
Attorney Cynthia Mitchell  
Mr. David Williams

*Superintendents of Coahoma Agricultural High School*

M.L. Strange  
1924-1925

J.M. Mosley  
1925-1929

J.W. Addison  
1929-1937

J.B. Wright  
1937-1945



*Presidents and Superintendents of Coahoma Community College and  
Coahoma Agricultural High School*

Benjamin F. McLaurin  
1945-1966

James E. Miller  
1966-1979

McKinley C. Martin  
1980-1992

Vivian M. Presley  
1992-2013

*Coahoma Community College District  
Boards of Supervisors*

**Coahoma County**

Johnny Newson  
Timothy Burrell  
Chris Overton  
Paul Pearson  
Roger Weiner

**Bolivar County**

Eddie Andrew Williams, III  
Larry King  
Preston Billings  
James McBride  
Donny Whitten

**Quitman County**

Brooks Earnest  
Sheridan Boyd  
Jessie Ellis  
Manuel Killebrew  
Bobby Turner

**Tallahatchie County**

Larry Coles  
Marcus Echols  
Johnny Goodwin  
Kenneth Havens  
Cary Hayes

**Tunica County**

McKinley Daley  
Henry Nickson, Jr.  
Cedric Burnette  
James Dunn  
Phillis V. Williams

## *Mississippi Community College Board*

Dr. Eric Clark, Executive Director

Mr. Johnny "Chip" Crane, Chair

Mr. Bruce Martin, Co-Chair

Mr. Lee R. Bush

Mr. Tom Gresham

Mr. Henry "Bubba" Hudspeth

Mr. John Pigott

Ms. Sue Stedman

Ms. Cheryl Thurmond

Mrs. Dolly Marascalco

Mr. Todd Hairston

### *Vision*

The Mississippi Community College Board shall foster an environment of excellence to promote world-class education and job training for a more prosperous Mississippi.

### *Mission*

The mission of the Mississippi Community College Board is to advance the community college system through coordination, support, leadership, and advocacy.



## *The Delegates from Colleges and Universities*

### PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

#### TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Copiah Lincoln Community College  
East Central Community College  
East Mississippi Community College  
Hinds Community College  
Holmes Community College  
Itawamba Community College  
Jones County Junior College

Meridian Community College  
Mississippi Delta Community College  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College  
Northeast Mississippi Community College  
Northwest Mississippi Community College  
Pearl River Community College  
Southwest Mississippi Community College

#### FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Alcorn State University  
Delta State University  
Jackson State University  
Mississippi State University

Mississippi University for Women  
Mississippi Valley State University  
University of Mississippi  
University of Southern Mississippi

#### PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

Belhaven University  
Blue Mountain College  
Millsaps College  
Mississippi College  
Reformed Theological Seminary

Rust College  
Southeastern Baptist College  
Tougaloo College  
Wesley Biblical Seminary  
William Carey University

## *Valmadge TeErino Towner, Ph.D.*

Dr. Valmadge Towner's career in education has come full circle. His early education began in Clarksdale at St. Elizabeth's Catholic School, and on July 1, 2013, he became president of Clarksdale's highest academic institution – Coahoma Community College. Towner is the fifth president to serve at CCC and the ninth superintendent of Coahoma Agricultural High School. He is, however, the first president to have ever previously served on the Coahoma Community College Board of Trustees, having served from 2004-2012. Dr. Towner is a native of Marks, MS. He went to high school in Quitman County before making his first appearance at Coahoma Community College and receiving his associate's degree in Math-Oriented Computer Science. CCC's leader is a stellar example of how a degree from Coahoma can open up the world to its graduates. He continued his education at Alcorn State University earning three degrees there that included a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and two master's degrees in education – one in mathematics and the other in administration.

"Coahoma provided me with the education that I needed and laid the groundwork for me to continue my educational journey," said Towner. "And that's what we need to continue to do today, equip our students and give them the confidence that when they leave CCC, they can go wherever they want to go." Towner's journey through life exemplifies that notion. His travels and education have taken him across the nation and the world. He has delivered lectures in both Africa and China on education and continued his studies, receiving a master's degree in divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey and a doctoral degree in Philosophy in Educational Leadership at the University of Mississippi.

His educational commitment is ongoing as he serves on the boards of a myriad of community and academic organizations that include the State Chamber of Commerce, Mississippi Economic Council, Regional Health Council, the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents, the Southern Regional College Board, the Boys to Men Club and the National Baptist Congress USA, Inc. Towner also serves as the pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Greenwood, MS. Coahoma's newest president brings with him 22 years of educational experience that includes time spent at Coahoma as a mathematics professor, head baseball coach and assistant football coach. Towner has also served as both a principal and superintendent in the Quitman County School District and as an adjunct professor at Lemoine-Owen College. Most recently, he served as the director of pupil services in the Desoto County School System. His dedication to education has also earned him recognition as Leflore County's Man of the Year, as well as, a nod as *Mabogany* magazine's Person of the Year. Towner is continuing a family legacy at Coahoma; his mother was an instructor at CCC, and his father, a pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Clarksdale, was an assistant music director at Coahoma. CCC's newest president says that he is humbled by his new charge at Coahoma Community College and encourages students to educate themselves and to aspire to achieve their own personal goals.

"I'm really humbled by this opportunity and am amazed at how things have turned out for me," said Towner. "I would tell anyone to do what you can, when you can, to prepare yourself for the many opportunities that life will present you."

## *The President's Regalia*

An Alumnus of Coahoma Community College, the President's regalia is a special gift presented to him by the Coahoma Community College National Alumni Association. This custom designed robe is made with the traditional black crepe fabric with maroon velvet neck trim and front panels. This maroon color is worn in honor of Coahoma Community College. The bell sleeves are accented with four velvet doctor bars which represent the Office of the President. All velvet is trimmed with antique gold cord. His traditional hood is fashioned from matching black crepe with maroon velvet trimmed with gold cord. The back of the hood represents the official school colors of maroon and white. The size and length of the hood indicates the highest level of academic achievement. The Presidential Hood is made of maroon velvet with a white chevron stripe. To top off the regalia is an eight-sided velvet tam with the doctor gold bullion tassel.

## *Chain of Office*

The Chain of Office represents the authority of the president of the College. The Chain of Office is formed of bronze links separated by round brass links. To the left of the Chain of Office, the round brass links are inscribed with the names and the years of service of the four superintendents of Coahoma Agricultural High School: M.L. Strange, 1924-1925; J.M. Mosley 1925-1929; J.W. Addison, 1929-1937; and J.B. Wright, 1937-1945. To the right of the Chain of Office, the round brass links are inscribed with the names and years of service of the four presidents/superintendents of Coahoma Community College and Coahoma Agricultural High School: Benjamin F. McLaurin 1945-1966; James E. Miller, 1966-1979; McKinley C. Martin, 1980-1992; and Vivian M. Presley, 1992-2013. A brass leaf link inscribed with the name of the current President, Valmadge T. Towner, connects to the culminating jewel, the College seal. The Chain of Office is gifted to Dr. Valmadge Towner by the Coahoma Community College Foundation.

## *College Mace*

Originally a weapon of combat, the mace is said to have been developed around 12,000 BC. The macebearer is a much more recent phenomenon. The position is derived from medieval times in Europe when the mace was carried by a bodyguard to protect the king from would-be attackers.

Over the centuries, the mace has come to represent the academic authority of colleges and is now used ceremonially as a symbol of office. It is traditionally carried by a distinguished faculty member preceding the president.

The Mace was designed and crafted by Mr. Larry Barrett, carpentry instructor, and carpentry students, Devente Robinson, Earnest Martin, Eddie Earl, Sylvester Simon, Xavier Jones, Stacy Pollard, Crystal Johnson, and Angela Austin in the Career Technical Division and Mr. Henry Dorsey, retired Fine Arts Department Chairman at Coahoma Community College. The Coahoma Community College mace is 45 inches in length and bears the seal of the college. Engraved on the six brass banners are the guiding principles of the college: Diversity, Integrity, Learning, Quality, Respect and Trust.



*Valmadge Te Erino Towner, Ph.D.*

COAHOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND  
COAHOMA AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

THE *Investiture* OF  
THE FIFTH PRESIDENT

*Valmadge T. Towner, Ph.D.*

October 10, 2013  
Two O'clock in the Afternoon

RoSusan D. Bartee, Ph.D., Presiding  
Professor and Program Coordinator of Educational Leadership  
University of Mississippi

Prelude

*The Procession of the Nobles by Rimsky-Korsakov*

Memphis Chamber Orchestra  
Mr. James McLeod, Director

Posting of Colors  
(Audience Please Stand)

Star Spangled Banner, The National Anthem  
Clarksdale High School ROTC  
Sergeant Major Freddie Davis, Senior Army  
Instructor

Investiture Processional

*Pomp and Circumstance by Sir Edward Elgar*

(Audience Please Remain Standing)

Summons to the Investiture

Dr. McKinley C. Martin  
Third President of Coahoma Community College and  
Coahoma Agricultural High School



## *Entrance of the Fifth President*

*(Audience Please Stand)*

Invocation

Reverend Ezra Towner, Jr.  
Father of the President

Welcome

Ms. Ann Shelton Clark  
Vice President of Career Technical Education

Greetings to the President

Congressman Bennie Thompson  
Senator Robert Jackson  
Representative Chuck Espy  
Ms. Heather Williams  
Mr. Paul Pearson  
Mr. Eddie Andrew Williams, III  
Mr. Manuel Killebrew  
Mr. James Dunn  
Mr. Randy Wolf

Representing the United States Congress  
Representing the Mississippi Senate  
Representing the House of Representatives  
Representing the City of Clarksdale  
Representing the County of Coahoma  
Representing the County of Bolivar  
Representing the County of Quitman  
Representing the County of Tunica  
Representing the County of Tallahatchie

Musical Selection

Coahoma Community College and Coahoma  
Agricultural High School Concert Choir  
Mr. Kelvin Towers, Director

*Lift Every Voice and Sing, Arranged by Roland Carter*

Greetings to the President

Dr. Eric Clark  
Ms. Rena Butler  
Dr. Martha Catlette  
Mrs. Eva Finley  
Miss Amaya Berry  
Dr. Charles Barron  
Dr. Donzell Lee

Representing the Mississippi Community College  
Board  
Representing the Coahoma Community College  
Board of Trustees  
Representing the Administration, Faculty and Staff  
Representing the Coahoma Agricultural High School  
Representing the Student Body  
Representing the Alumni  
Representing Alcorn State University

Greetings to the President

Dr. Pauline Pearson Stamps  
Dr. Jerry Young  
Mr. Leroy Matthews  
Mrs. Elizabeth Towner-Jones

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church  
National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.  
President's Mentor  
President's Family



## *Special Tribute*

TO THE FIFTH PRESIDENT'S PARENTS

Rev. Ezra and Mrs. Mary Towner

By: Mrs. Vergia Towner-Dishman

### *The Investiture of the President*

Rosetta Howard, Ph.D., Presiding  
Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Coahoma Community College

The Presidential Oath of Office

Mr. William Donald Clark, Chair  
Coahoma Community College Board of Trustees

Presentation of the President's Regalia

Rev. Dr. Dennis Hawkins, Vice-Chair  
Coahoma Community College Board of Trustees

Mr. Robert Rockett, President  
Coahoma Community College National Alumni  
Association

Mr. Eddie C. Smith, Alumnus/Retired Faculty  
Coahoma Community College

Presentation of the Chain of Office

Mr. William Donald Clark, Chair  
Coahoma Community College Board of Trustees

Mr. Donald Green, President  
Coahoma Community College Foundation

Mr. Charles Reid, Executive Director  
Coahoma Community College Foundation

Presentation of the College's Mace

Ms. Patricia Furdge, Chair  
Coahoma Community College Math and Science  
Department

The Presentation of the Fifth President	Dr. Vivian M. Presley, Fourth President Coahoma Community College and Coahoma Agricultural High School
The Acceptance and Investiture Address	Rev. Dr. Valmadge TeErino Towner, Fifth President Coahoma Community College and Coahoma Agricultural High School
Musical Selection	Coahoma Community College and Coahoma Agricultural High School Concert Choir Mr. Kelvin Towers, Director <i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, Arranged by Mack Wilberg</i>
Alma Mater <i>(Audience Please Stand)</i>	"Coahoma, Coahoma" Words and Music by J. Orville Moseley April 23, 1954
Benediction	Rev. Ezra Towner, Jr.
Investiture Recessional <i>War March of the Priests by Felix Mendelssohn</i> <i>(Audience Please Be Seated)</i>	

## *Special Thanks*

Coahoma Community College Foundation  
Coahoma Community College National Alumni Association  
Coahoma Community College Institutional Advancement  
Memphis Chamber Orchestra  
Valley Food Services

### INVESTTTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Rosetta Howard, Chair  
Mrs. Rita Hanfor, Co-Chair  
Dr. Charles Barron  
Ms. Rena Butler  
Ms. Deborah Carter  
Ms. Ann Clark  
Ms. Carolyn Council  
Mr. Henry Dorsey  
Ms. Fatina Elliott  
Ms. Shanelle Frazier  
Mr. Donald Green  
Mr. Ezra Howard  
Mr. Matthew Killebrew  
Mrs. Yolanda Miller  
Mrs. Maxine Pointer  
Mrs. Delores Richard  
Mr. Robert Rockett  
Ms. Marilyn Shelton  
Mr. Kelvin Towers  
Mrs. Brenda Williams

## **"COAHOMA, COAHOMA"**

Words and Music by J. Orville Moseley  
April 23, 1954

Coahoma, Coahoma, we kneel before thine alter,  
In Reverence, in homage, in consecration strong;  
    Upon the earth where'er we tread  
    We never will thy name degrade.  
    We challenge wrong with never any dread.  
    We shall not be afraid.  
Coahoma, Coahoma, our aim is not to falter,  
But to be brave in the good life to which we all belong.

Coahoma, Coahoma, as though the sun were rising,  
Thy precepts, thy guidance, will ever be our star;  
    As in the world we take our place  
    Our memories of the remain,  
    We'll do our best to win the bitter race  
    And honor to retain.  
Coahoma, Coahoma, thy sons are now arising  
    To the great call men of courage  
    We shed thy light afar

Coahoma, Coahoma, Our noble Alma Mater  
We laud thee, we hail thee, with never ending praise;  
    The fortune of our future lives  
    We'll cast a ray of light on thee.  
    The shades of night will swiftly disappear  
    With thoughts of thee so near.  
Coahoma, Coahoma, our beacon of tomorrow  
    We will always shout thy glory  
    Our Alma Mater, dear.



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 12.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (Office of National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people in the community. The Department of Health (2000) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out a vision for the future of older people's health and social care. The strategy is based on the following principles: older people should be able to live independently and actively in the community; older people should be able to access the services they need; and older people should be able to participate in decisions about their care and services.

The strategy also sets out a number of key objectives for the future of older people's health and social care. These include: to improve the health and well-being of older people; to ensure that older people have access to the services they need; to ensure that older people are able to participate in decisions about their care and services; and to ensure that older people are able to live independently and actively in the community.

The strategy is a key document for the future of older people's health and social care in the UK. It sets out a vision for the future of older people's health and social care, and sets out a number of key objectives for the future of older people's health and social care. The strategy is a key document for the future of older people's health and social care in the UK.

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